THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) The estimates of average yield rates separately for Irrigated and unirrigated area are not generated.

Training to Cane Growers

5419. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that lack of availability of manufacturing prototypes, improper field and crop conditions, lack of technical know-how of the mechanics and operators, the cane growers have not been able to achieve better results of their produce;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to impart necessary training to farmers on these aspects;

(c) whether sugar industry's involvement in the matter has also been examined; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) There are various factors which determine the economic returns to the cane growers. Agricultural equipment for tillage, inter-culture, plant protection and irrigation operations are commercially available in the country for the use of farmers including sugarcane growers. Subsidy is also available to the farmers for the purchasse of agricultural equipment under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Macro-Management of Agriculture. Specialized equipment for planting and stubble shaving have also been developed. Two projects,under Mission Mode of the National Agricultural Technology Project, namely, Prototype manufacturing of Agricultural Implemennts and Mechanization of Intensive Irrigated Agriculture for Sugarcane Production have been approved. These projects are in operation in different parts of the country. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research have informed that they have developed linkages with the sugar industry. Training is also being arranged to the farmers in the selection, operation, maintenance and management of various kinds of agricultural machinery. Some of the sugar mills have imported Sugarcane harvesters for the purpose of trails, evaluation and introduction in the country.